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7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA  
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10 ISRAEL GARCIA; JESSENIA M.)  
11 GARCIA; IVAN A. MADRUENO;)   
12 PRISCILLA ANN SALADORES;)   
13 KATHLEEN L. CONIAM, )

14 Plaintiffs, )

15 vs. )

16 GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC fka GMAC )  
17 MORTGAGE CORPORATION;)   
18 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES,)   
19 LLC; WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. )  
20 R O N A L D M . H O R W I T Z ; )  
21 RESIDENTIAL FUNDING COMPANY )  
22 fka RESIDENTIAL FUNDING )  
23 CORPORATION; QUALITY LOAN )  
24 SERVICE CORPORATION; GMAC )  
25 MORTGAGE, LLC, )

26 Defendants. )  
27  
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No. CV-09-0295-PHX-GMS

**ORDER**

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30 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 20(a) sets forth who may be joined in an action as  
31 plaintiffs:

32 Persons may join in one action as plaintiffs if: (A) they assert  
33 any right to relief jointly, severally, or in the alternative with  
34 respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or  
35 series of transactions or occurrences; and (B) any question of  
36 law or fact common to all plaintiffs will arise in the action.

1 Similarly, Rule 20(b) sets forth who may be joined in an action as defendants:

2           Persons . . . may be joined in one action as defendants if: (A)  
3           any right to relief is asserted against them jointly, severally, or  
4           in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same  
5           transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences;  
6           and (B) any question of law or fact common to all defendants  
7           will arise in the matter.

8           Here, Mr. and Ms. Garcia, Mr. Madrueno, Ms. Saladores, and Ms. Coniam initially  
9           joined together as plaintiffs asserting claims against six defendants and an indeterminate  
10          number of unnamed defendants. (*See* Dkt. # 1 Pt. 2.) Plaintiffs' original Complaint was  
11          predicated upon events surrounding three pieces of property owned separately by one or  
12          more of the plaintiffs. Specifically, Mr. and Ms. Garcia's claims were based upon their  
13          ownership of real property at 6526 South 41st Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85041; Mr.  
14          Madrueno's claims were based upon his ownership of real property at 1815 East Pecan Road,  
15          Phoenix, Arizona 85040; and Ms. Saladores and Ms. Coniam's claims were based upon their  
16          ownership of real property at 8438 North 85th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251. (*See id.*)

17          Because parts of the original Complaint violated Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8,  
18          the Court directed Plaintiffs, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(e), to file and  
19          serve a first amended complaint on or before April 27, 2009. On April 24, 2009, Ms.  
20          Saladores and Ms. Coniam filed a First Amended Complaint asserting claims, based on their  
21          Scottsdale property, against only Residential Funding Company, LLC fka Residential  
22          Funding Corporation, Quality Loan Service Corporation, and John Does 1 through 1000.  
23          (Dkt. # 31.) Similarly, on April 27, 2009, Mr. and Ms. Garcia filed a First Amended  
24          Complaint asserting claims, based on their Phoenix property, against only GMAC Mortgage,  
25          LLC fka GMAC Mortgage Corporation, Executive Trustee Services, and John Does 1-1000.  
26          (Dkt. # 36.) Mr. Madreuno did not file or join in an amended complaint.

27          It has become apparent that both Plaintiffs and Defendants have been improperly  
28          joined. While there are likely common questions of law and fact between Plaintiffs and  
29          Defendants, joinder is improper because Plaintiffs do not asserts claims "jointly, severally,

or in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 20(a). Similarly, joinder of Defendants is improper because Plaintiffs assert no “right to relief . . . against them jointly, severally, or in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences.” *Id.* 20(b).


Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 21 addresses misjoinder of parties and allows the Court “on its own” to sever an action to address improper joinder. *See* 7 C. Wright, A. Miller, & M. Kane, *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 1657, at 428 (2d ed. 1990) (“More commonly, Rule 21 has been invoked to sever parties improperly joined under Rule 20.”). Courts have broad discretion to sever under Rule 21. *See Coleman v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 232 F.3d 1271, 1297 (9th Cir. 2000); *Maddox v. County of Sacramento*, No. 2:06-cv-0072-GEB-EFB, 2006 WL 3201078, at \*2 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 3, 2006).

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 21, the Clerk of the Court is directed to sever this action as set forth in the chart below. Case numbers CV-09-0891-PHX-GMS and CV-09-0899-PHX-GMS have been assigned to facilitate this severance.

Case No. CV-09-0295-PHX-GMS	Plaintiff – Ivan A. Madrueno
	Defendants – Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.; Ronald M. Horwitz; John Does 1-1000
	Complaint – Dkt. # 1 Pt. 2 at 6-25
	Leave Docket entries the same.
Case No. CV-09-0891-PHX-GMS	Plaintiffs – Israel Garcia; Jessenia M. Garcia
	Defendants – GMAC Mortgage, LLC fka GMAC Mortgage Corporation; Executive Trustee Services, LLC; John Does 1-1000
	Complaint for this case no. – Dkt. # 36
	Transfer Dkt. ## 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 34, 35, 36 to new case no.

1 Case No. CV-09-0899-	Plaintiffs – Priscilla Ann Saladores; Kathleen Coniam
2 PHX-GMS	Defendants – Residential Funding Company, LLC fka
3	residential Funding Corporation; Quality Loan Service
4	Corporation; John Does 1-1000
5	Complaint for this case no. – Dkt. # 31
6	Transfer Dkt. ## 1, 6, 9, 11, 13, 18, 19, 22, 30, 31, 32, 33 to
7	new case number.

8 DATED this 4th day of May, 2009.

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11 G. Murray Snow  
United States District Judge